The armchair historian

Observations on the history of medicine and medical regulation

The Missouri Medical Diploma Mill

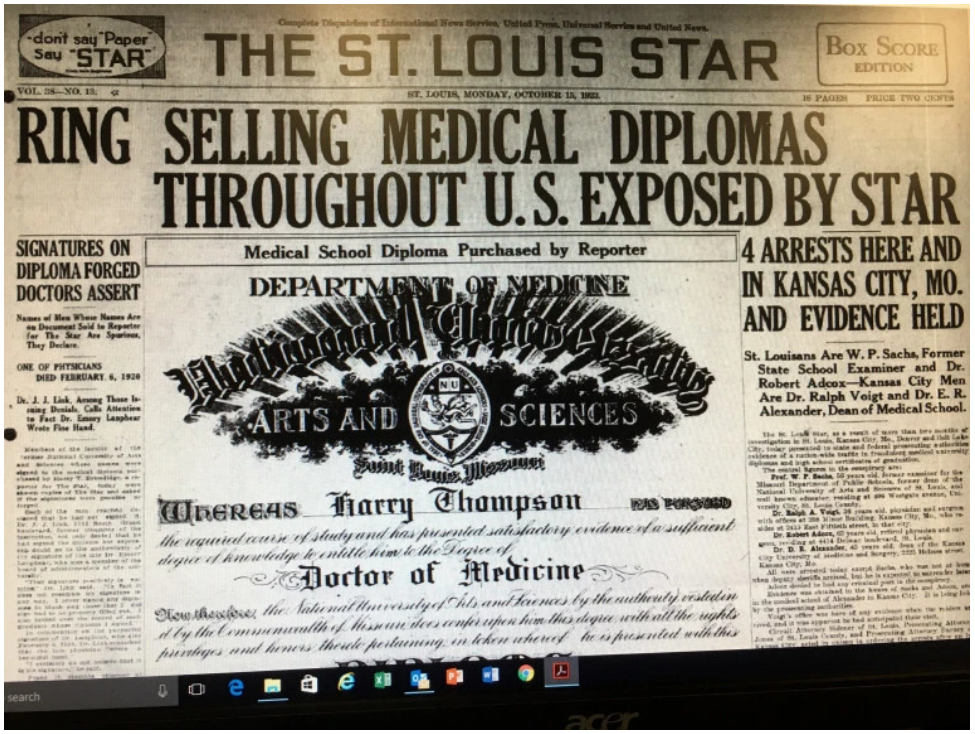
FEBRUARY 12, 2019 / DAVIDFSMB

Part 1: "Harry, why don't you become a doctor?"

Harry Thompson stepped out of his rented room in St. Louis on the morning of August 13, 1923, waved to the postman walking past and called out to him—"Can you tell me where the nearest doctor lives?" The postman offered a hurried, "Right there!" pointing several houses down the street toward a man watering plants on his front porch. Dr. Robert Adcox heard the exchange and looked up to see Thompson making his way toward him. After a brief discussion and despite some initial reluctance, Adcox agreed to treat Thompson's sore throat.

After a follow-up visit and several increasingly friendly conversations, Dr. Adcox presented his young patient with an opportunity—"Harry, why don't you become a doctor?" Thompson responded with a chuckling protest, citing the obstacles to such a career move, including his lack of a high school diploma. Adcox brushed aside such concerns. "Bunk, Harry, my boy! You wouldn't have to go to school to become a doctor." He then explained how a high school diploma could be obtained and all obstacles removed to securing a medical diploma and a license to practice. Skeptical but intrigued, Thompson pressed for details. A smiling Adcox said, "Harry, a good magician never reveals how he does his tricks…be ready to go to Kansas City with me tomorrow night…I'll show you how it's done." Two months later, Harry Thompson (aka Harry T.

Brundidge, reporter for the *St. Louis Star* newspaper) possessed a high school certificate, a medical diploma (backdated to 1916) and a medical license.



don't say "Paper" Say "STAR"

THE ST. LOUIS STAR

BOX SCORE EDITION

VOL. 38—NO. 13. ST. LOUIS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1923. 18 PAGES PRICE TWO CENTS

RING SELLING MEDICAL DIPLOMAS THROUGHOUT U.S. EXPOSED BY STAR

SIGNATURES ON DIPLOMA FORGED DOCTORS ASSERT

Names of Men Whose Names Are on Document Sold to Reporter for The Star Are Spurious, They Declare.

ONE OF PHYSICIANS DIED FEBRUARY 6, 1920

Dr. J. J. Link, Among Those Issuing Denials, Calls Attention to Fact Dr. Emery Lanphear Wrote Fine Hand.

Medical School Diploma Purchased by Reporter

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Whereas Harry Thompson HAS PURSUED

the required course of study and has presented satisfactory evidence of a sufficient degree of knowledge to entitle him to the Degree of

Doctor of Medicine

4 ARRESTS HERE AND IN KANSAS CITY, MO. AND EVIDENCE HELD

St. Louisans Are W. P. Sachs, Former State School Examiner and Dr. Robert Adcox—Kansas City Men Are Dr. Ralph Voigt and Dr. E. R. Alexander, Dean of Medical School.

This episode became the opening salvo in Brundidge's exposé series launched October 15, 1923. The full-story of the Brundidge's investigation played out on the front page of the *Star* almost daily over six weeks. The *Star* related how medical diploma mill activities centered primarily around two Missouri schools (Kansas City College of Medicine and Surgery; St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons) served as a pipeline to licensure in several states. The *Star* also revealed how the main players in the Missouri-based diploma mills (Drs. Robert Adcox, Ralph Voight, Date R. Alexander, Waldo Briggs) were part of a loose national network of medical diploma mills that once touched all regions of the country.

The *Star's* first headline, 'Ring Selling Medical Diplomas throughout the U.S.' triggered massive national interest, presenting a major embarrassment to medical education and licensing in the United States. That this story has been conveniently forgotten should not be surprising. Fallout from the scandal and its resulting investigations culminated in the dissolution of one medical licensing board (Connecticut), the reorganization of another (Missouri) and a fight for existence in a third (Arkansas). A fourth board (Florida) was spared this ignominy only because earlier malfeasance led that state's governor to dissolve it before the *Star's* story broke. The *Star's* reporting brought America's Class C medical schools outside the whispered circles of medical education and into a national spotlight. A few of these schools operated so far on the fringe of U.S. medical education as to be little more than diploma

mills—either explicitly through their design or as once legitimate institutions that drifted into *de facto* diploma mill activity. These schools represented dying institutions; Harry Thompson Brundidge and the *St. Louis Star* eagerly helped to hasten their demise.

Fake Diplomas Were Exposed By Reporter

29 - Year - Old Writer Makes Notable Record

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 29.—When Harry Thompson Brundide, reporter on the St. Louis Star, exposed the national ring dealing in fraudulent medical diplomas, he achieved the crowning feat of an adventurous journalistic career and put himself prominently in line for the Pulitzer prize for the most meritorious reportorial accomplishment of the year.

Fifteen years ago, Brundidge, who is now 29, began his newspaper career as an office boy on the Kansas City Post. He held this job for a year when he was summoned by the city editor, A. B. McDonald.

"Brundidge, if you will buy a pair of long trousers I will make a reporter of you," the city editor of the Post told him.

Then began reportorial adventures that have taken him throughout the United States and to many foreign countries.

Wrote of Diaz Revolt

He was in the thick of the Mexican revolt launched by Felix Diaz against Madeira. He went to Cuba for a while and returned to Mexico as a secret agent for Diaz in the counter revolt against Huerta.

Harry Thompson Brundidge, who may gain Pulitzer prize.

The 1923 exposure of the medical diploma mills in Kansas City and St. Louis concluded a sordid chapter in American medical education that saw similar institutions dotting the landscape. Though the most notorious 19th century medical diploma mill (Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania) predated the post-Civil War rise of medical licensing laws, most of its rivals in the trade originated alongside the emerging medical legislation in the last quarter of the century. All regions of the country confronted medical diploma mill activity especially in the period before most medical boards had the authority to *approve* medical schools and thus restrict licensing to graduates of *bona fide* schools.

The west coast saw medical diploma mills in Washington and California. The Pacific College proved an especially persistent and egregious participant in the diploma trade drawing a protracted effort from the California medical board to force its closure.

New England witnessed its share in the illicit trade. Lax chartering laws in Massachusetts allowed medical diploma mills to flourish briefly in that state: Bellevue Medical College of Massachusetts, American University of Boston, Excelsior Medical College, Druidic University, etc. New Hampshire and Vermont authorities confronted medical diploma mills or fraudulent institutions functioned as well.

From the Atlantic to the Midwest, medical diploma mills operated at various times in the District of Columbia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. Several of these operations originated with co-conspirators in John Buchanan's Philadelphia diploma mill: Henry Stickney with New England University and Henry S. Thomas' Detroit Eclectic Medical College. Others emerged from institutions originally founded with apparently legitimate purposes before lapsing into the diploma trade. This appears to have been the case with two similarly titled Cincinnati area schools: Physio-Medical College and the Physio-Eclectic Medical College. More than a dozen medical diploma mills plagued Illinois at various times especially the multiple ventures of Johann Malok in the1890s.

The problem persisted primarily because it represented a potentially lucrative business. The Wisconsin Eclectic Medical College's owner was arrested in 1897 after lucrative sales earning tens of thousands of dollars. All of these schools were among the forty institutions identified as "fraudulent" by the AMA Council on Medical Education in its review of U.S. medical colleges published in 1918.

By 1923 the vast majority of these schools had closed or been publicly identified such that their graduates were nearly unlicenseable. Shutting down the remainder should have represented nothing more than a clean-up exercise. Not so!

I'll continue the story in Part 2 and share how Harry Brundidge's story implicated medical licensing boards in Arkansas, Connecticut and Florida.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Sources:

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The Missouri Medical Diploma Mill

FEBRUARY 22, 2019FEBRUARY 25, 2019 / DAVIDFSMB

Part 2: "Bringing in a gusher"

In part one of this series, I shared how *St. Louis Star* and reporter Harry Thompson Brundidge infiltrated and exposed the operations of two Missouri medical diploma mills—the Kansas City College of Medicine and the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. Those two schools represented the tail end of a long period of sporadic medical diploma mill in America. Today's blog post shares more of Brundidge's look "behind the curtain" and how his story led investigators to medical licensing boards in Arkansas, Connecticut and Florida.

The story began in early August 1923 when Brundidge's editor directed him to investigate medical diploma mill activity in the state. He gave his reporter one lead (Dr. Robert Adcox) and a direct order: Get yourself into "the [diploma] mill." Brundidge established a new identity as a St. Louis coal salesman, initiated contact with Adcox and soon found himself traveling to Kansas City where he met the self-proclaimed "brains" behind the operation, Dr. Ralph Voigt.

Harry's first payment of $600 resulted in Adcox (pictured with Brundidge below)

securing a high school certificate for him complements of fellow conspirator William Sachs, the Director of Missouri Public Schools. This certificate and a bogus chiropractic degree served as the basis for advanced standing admission to the Kansas City College of Medicine. While waiting for these credentials, Harry received instruction from Dr. Voigt on an electro-therapy machine—an impressive looking but bogus diagnostic machine with numerous dials and flashing light switches. Voigt's description of it as a "sucker machine" explained its primary purpose as a means for Harry to fleece unwary patients once they got him a medical license.

Adcox and Voigt then placed Harry in what they characterized as a "ringer class" at the Kansas City College—their reference to a group of sham students apparently mixed in with legitimate students attending the school. Harry shared his nervousness about being placed in a room with legitimate medical students. Adcox and Voigt's advice was simple: "Keep your mouth shut and your ears open." This brought Harry into contact with another conspirator, Dr. Date R. Alexander, Dean of the Kansas City College.

Police raids and arrests of Drs. Adcox, Voigt, Alexander and Sachs in October 1923 secured a mountain of evidence, much of it leading directly to several licensing boards. The first of these was the Arkansas Eclectic Medical Board. Connections between this board and the Kansas City College had raised suspicions as early as 1917. The linkage grew more understandable once it became evident that the Chairman of the Arkansas Eclectic Board chair held a diploma from the Kansas City school.

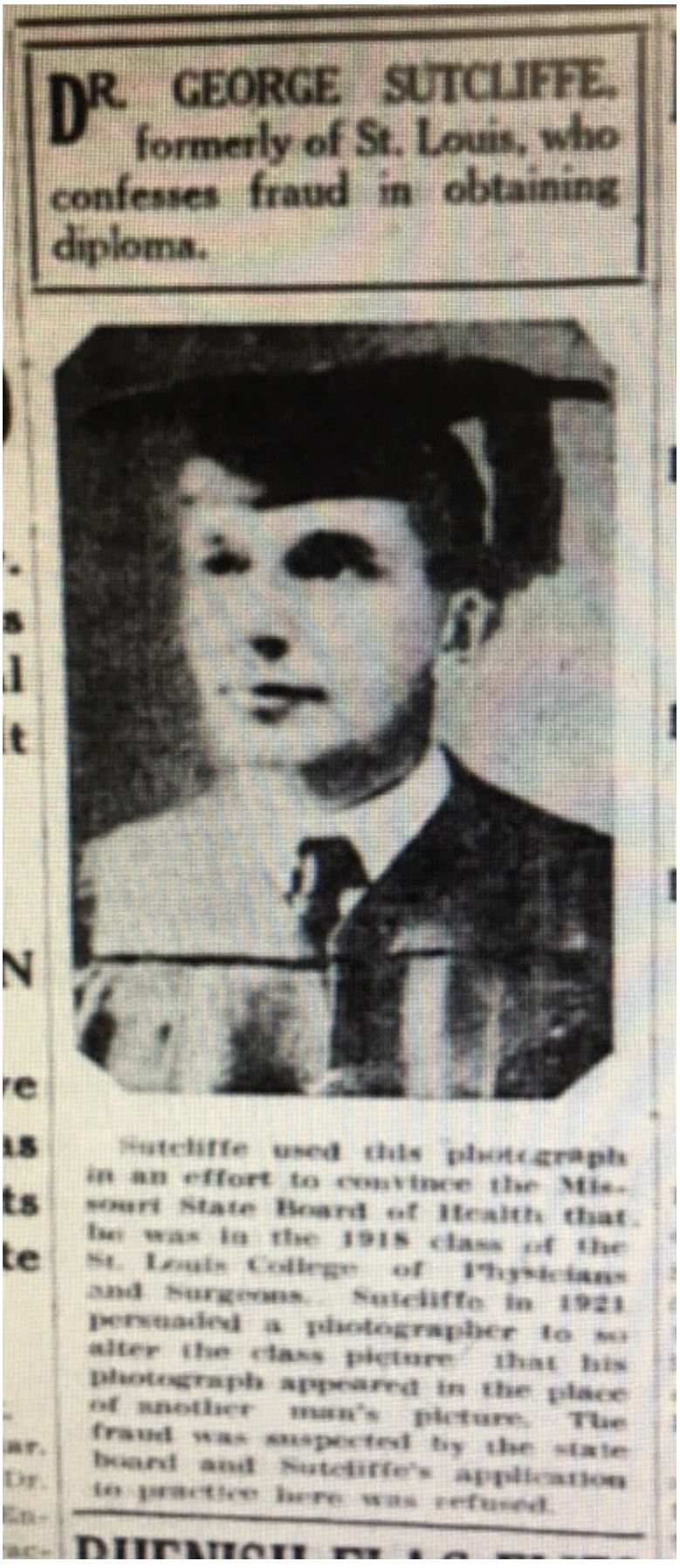
The Arkansas board provided Kansas City graduates with their most direct route to medical licensure. The board examined 203 Kansas City 'graduates' between 1916 and 1924, licensing nearly 82% of these individuals. Amidst the publicity, the board proclaimed its innocence and offered to "throw open its books." Amazingly, the Arkansas Eclectic Medical Board not only survived the 1923 scandal, it remained in statutory existence until 1955 when the state finally consolidated its separate medical, eclectic and homeopathic licensing boards. This inexplicable reprieve probably occurred because the board had virtually no one to license. Eclectic medical schools were already largely disappearing with them any graduates seeking a medical license.

The evidence acquired in Missouri tied directly to the Connecticut Eclectic Medical Board which presented the main conduit for licensing St. Louis College graduates. That board seemed to "open its doors" abruptly in 1921-22 as more than 140 graduates of substandard schools such as St. Louis College sought a medical license through that board. Political wrangling and closer investigation by a Connecticut grand jury left that state's governor lamenting how the state had become a haven for unqualified doctors.

The grand jury heard insider testimony from Adcox and Sachs as well as a Connecticut licensee, George Sutcliffe, who had begun cooperating with state authorities began months earlier.

These confessions implicated the Dean of the St. Louis College (Dr. Waldo Briggs) and an insider ("fixer") at the Connecticut Eclectic Medical Board—probably board chairman, James Christian. Adcox's confession described how advance copies of exam questions, lax proctoring and informal oral exams moved St. Louis grads to a Connecticut license. The police raid of Adcox's home secured more than a dozen sets of exam questions from the Connecticut board spanning several years. The pipeline into Connecticut proved so lucrative that the conspirators described it as "bringing in a gusher" from the oil fields. The corruption went so deep that even the pre-medical credentials of the board's chairman were the forged handiwork of Dr. Sachs. The grand jury summarized the situation this way: The eclectic medical board had been a "willing part[y]to fraudulent conduct."

The *Star's* expose and the resulting investigation even reached a defunct medical board! In Florida, the eclectic medical board had links to the Missouri-based diploma activities. As a cooperating witness, Adcox, described how advance copies of exam questions, crib notes and cash payments secured licenses in that state. Little of this reached the newspapers in 1923 as widespread irregularities


DR. GEORGE SUTCLIFFE, formerly of St. Louis, who confesses fraud in obtaining diploma.

Sutcliffe used this photograph in an effort to convince the Missouri State Board of Health that he was in the 1918 class of the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. Sutcliffe in 1921 persuaded a photographer to so alter the class picture that his photograph appeared in the place of another man's picture. The fraud was suspected by the state board and Sutcliffe's application to practice here was refused.

had already been uncovered leading to the dissolution of that board in 1921. Two members of the Florida Eclectic Board were convicted of felony mail fraud in transacting the medical diploma trade. The board's former secretary waged a protracted legal battle that culminated in his conviction and five-year prison sentence in 1927.

Not all of the nefarious activity led to licensing boards situated outside Missouri. In the final installment of this series, we'll double back to see how the scandal imploded the Missouri Board of Health.

The armchair historian

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The Missouri Medical Diploma Mill

MARCH 7, 2019MARCH 8, 2019 / DAVIDFSMB

Part 3: The final chapter

One week after Harry Brundidge and the *St. Louis Star* broke the story of Missouri's medical diploma mills, Gov. Arthur Hyde invited a nationally prominent medical educator, Dr. Frederick Waite, to conduct "an immediate investigation" of all the state's medical schools. Waite moved quickly and with the assistance of members of the Missouri Board of Health set forth review criteria and a rapid schedule for the visits. Collectively, they assembled a team for on-site inspections of all six of Missouri's medical schools. The resulting report characterized the Kansas City College of Medicine and the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons "not reputable under the intent of the [state's] law."

Waite's choice of language (cited above) reflected an earlier twist to the story that underscored the connections and influence of the two diploma mill schools with sympathetic (or perhaps careless? corrupt?) legislators. The Missouri Board of Health had long refused to recognize these schools and license their graduates for practice based upon their substandard facilities and instruction. Both were categorized as substandard Class C schools by the AMA Council on Medical Education. But in 1921, a subtle change in state law directed the board to license graduates of "legally chartered" rather than "reputable" medical schools. This subtle language difference mattered significantly as both schools held a valid charter issued by the state of Missouri. Despite protests from the state

medical association, the governor signed the bill into law. The Missouri Board of Health had no choice but to consider individuals holding a degree from either school as eligible for licensure—provided they pass the board's licensing exam.

Thus, at the time of Waite and board's report to the governor on the state's medical schools in late 1923, the Missouri Board of Health lacked authority to deny a medical license to the Kansas City and St. Louis graduates. The report of Waite and the board characterizing the schools as "not reputable under the intent of the law" carried no legal force though it served as a public relations weapon against the schools—an effective one amidst the massive publicity triggered by the case.

-dont say "Paper" Say "STAR"

THE ST. LOUIS STA

DR. ADCOX MEDICAL RING'S 'CLEAR

Dr. Adcox and Dr. Thompson and Some of Adcox's Typical Correspondence

The mountain of evidence secured in the fall 1923 and subsequent confessions of key witnesses like Robert Adcox and Williams Sachs brought matters to a head in 1924. The governor turned to Waite once again to conduct an investigation—this one into the operations of the state's board of health. Working rapidly, Waite's interviews and assessment of board practices culminated in a report and a set of recommendations early in 1924. The board agreed to implement several operational measures (recommended by Waite) designed to bolster the integrity of their licensing decisions. The board agreed that verification of license applicants' personal information and credentials would be handled by one designated staff member. The board also agreed that, while the investigation by authorities played out, no Kansas City or St. Louis College graduates would be admitted to the examination. By June of that year, both protocols had been violated by the Secretary for the Health Board, Dr. Cortez

Enloe. This may not have surprised knowledgeable insiders, or even Waite, as earlier Enloe had declined to participate in any of the board's visits to the Missouri medical schools in late 1923.

Despite mounting criticism and calls for his ouster, Enloe held fast to his position as board secretary. He only relinquished this role (though still remaining on the board) until further revelations reached the press concerning his association with a physician named Ray Horton. Horton presented himself as a "personal and political friend" of Enloe and in a later confession, admitted using this connection as a means for soliciting money from the Kansas City school and its degree holders with a promise of access to a Missouri license. The implication was clear: Enloe had some sort of financial relationship with the school through Horton. Governor Samuel Baker finally dismissed the entire board of health in September 1925. However, Enloe's close friendship with Gov. Baker served him well. He managed to escape formal charges and the governor subsequently appointed Enloe to oversee the state's Board of Prisons.

For his part, Harry Brundidge probably deserved, but did not receive, a Pulitzer Prize for his investigative journalism. It was, however, the start of a stellar career that saw him making headlines many times over…often as a result of his crime stories. His career brought him face to face with murderers, bootleggers, kidnappers, crooked cops, reporters "on the take" and nationally-known personalities like Al Capone and J. Edgar Hoover. (Below: Brundidge seated left of J. Edgard Hoover)

(https://armchairhistorian.blog/2019/03/07/the-missouri-medical-diploma-mill-2/brundidge-and-j-edgar-hoover/)

LENTY' OF NEWSPAPERMEN

Says He Paid Newspapermen

HE GIVES BRUNDIDGE MIDNIGHT INTERVIEW AT FLORIDA ESTATE

Gang Chief Tells Star Reporter 'You Are Right' in Expose of Chicago Racketeering Situation But 'You Can't Back It Because It Is Too Big a Proposition.'

(https://armchairhistorian.blog/2019/03/07/the-missouri-medical-diploma-mill-2/capone/)

In a radio broadcast nearly three decades later, Brundidge reflected on this period of his journalistic career that frequently brought him into contact with "criminals." The jaded reporter evinced surprising sympathy for these men.

"At one time in my life I wrote a great deal about crime and criminals. I don't know how many criminals I came to know personally while I was a newspaper man…the number is large. It has not been always easy to draw the line of behavior where it belonged, between friendship and the rights of society. But I did my duty on both sides of the line. I had my friends, and I helped the law.

What has not been hard has been to know that there is no line between people. They are all basically alike, all have good in them, all have the potentiality of failure.

I have known some criminals very well indeed. I have known, too, that I was no better than they were, I was only more fortunate. And because of this contact with criminals I have been privileged to have more friends than persons usually have. And the friends I have had, some of them, have been better friends because they weren't able to make friendships with those on my side of the line. They knew I believed they had good in them. They knew I trusted them. So they trusted me. I am rich because they did."

Monday, April 22, 1957

an Retires In Santa Cruz
't Quit His Writing

RetiredWriter Keeps On Writing

Janet Brundidge watches her husband, Harry, plug away on an autobiography of his distinguished career of news and article writing in their home at 533 34th avenue. Brundidge is retired, although he wrote recent interviews with Harry Hooper, Ty Cobb, and Ted Williams for the Sporting News national baseball paper. The Brundidges have lived in many parts of the world. Their dog is called Chou Chou.

Sources: This multi-part series is derived from my article "An Underworld in Education: The Demise of Missouri's Medical Diploma Mills," *Social History of Medicine* (ahead of print publication October 2018)

NOTE: The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

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The armchair historian

Observations on the history of medicine and medical regulation

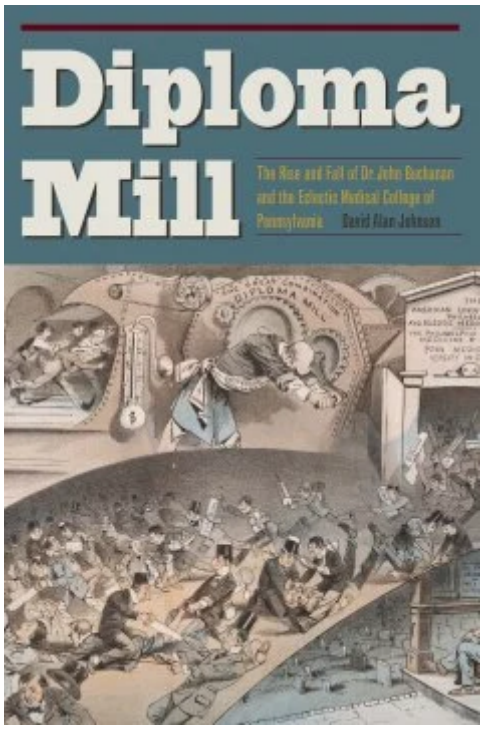
Con Man or White Collar Criminal?

JULY 25, 2018NOVEMBER 7, 2018 / DAVIDFSMB

I've spent a good deal of time writing and thinking about Dr. John Buchanan in recent years. His colorful career saw him play many roles including physician, author, educator, patent medicine entrepreneur and…criminal. His infamy, despite having been largely forgotten today, rests upon his latter role as the moving force behind America's largest medical diploma mill in the 19th century. (See my forthcoming book *Diploma Mill: The Rise and Fall of Dr. John Buchanan and the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania* from Kent State Univ. Press, August 2018.)

Over a career spanning roughly four decades, John Buchanan's transgressive behaviors included the sale of medical degrees, conspiracy to defraud, bribery, apparent theft of corpses for anatomical instruction, allegations of criminal abortion and political chicanery designed to swing a state legislative election to one of his colleagues.

Buchanan's career, while colorful, is not entirely unique. Scoundrels populate the history of medical regulation in America. The rogues' gallery where Buchanan resides includes hucksters and charlatans like goat gland specialist John Brinkley, cancer-cure specialists like Norman Baker and Harry Hoxsey, snake-oil salesman Clark Stanley and countless locally infamous rascals that bedeviled state medical boards and the medical profession.[1]



(https://armchairhistorian.blog/2018/07/25/con-man-or-white-collar-criminal/john-buchanan-book-1/)

(https://armchairhistorian.blog/2018/07/25/con-man-or-white-collar-criminal/220px-dr-_john_r-_brinkley/)

(https://armchairhistorian.blog/2018/07/25/con-man-or-white-collar-criminal/harry_hoxsey2/)
(Left to right: John Buchanan, John R. Brinkley, Harry Hoxsey)

One of the questions I have found difficult to answer about Buchanan should be a simple one. Why did he do it? Why did he risk—and ultimately throw away—a promising medical career at a legitimate educational institution?

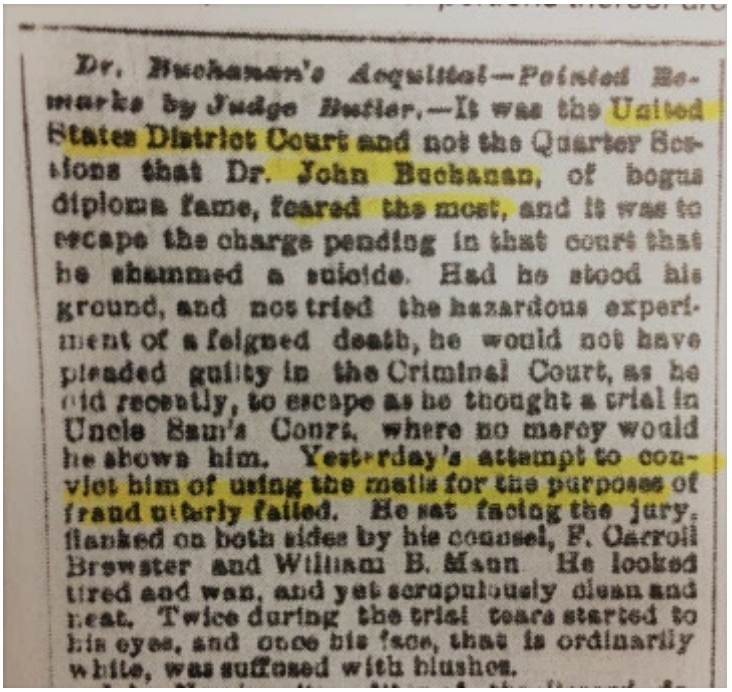
Money—that's the obvious answer, right? The diploma trade proved not only lucrative but relatively easy to conduct during the post-Civil War era despite the periodic outcry of critics.

But that doesn't really answer the question. Think about it. There is nothing at this moment preventing you or I from engaging in an activity that could reap a financial windfall—drug dealing, income tax evasion, identity theft, various types of fraud, etc. And yet we

don't do these things from a mixture of motives, e.g., our sense of moral or ethical values, our fear of being caught and punished. Indeed, the vast majority of the human population rejects transgressive behavior on a daily basis in favor of our remaining in good standing in what is collectively hopefully a safer, stable, more just social order.

If greed doesn't explain John Buchanan's behavior, what does? Here I think it is helpful to see John Buchanan as a specific type of scoundrel in the medico-regulatory world. Not the confidence man of the sort represented by a Brinkley, Baker and their ilk but as a type we more often think of as a creature of the 20th century—the white collar criminal.

The federal prosecutors who charged Buchanan with mail fraud in 1880 attempted to portray him as a con man preying upon the public through his issuance of mail order diplomas that became the basis for some physicians to secure a medical license. While this was a rational argument to present in trying to secure a conviction on mail fraud charges, it represented an overreach. Why? Quite simply, no fraud entered into the transaction between Buchanan and the purchasers of the diplomas as both sides were aware of the true nature of the transaction. The judge agreed, acquitting Buchanan on this specific charge. (below left)



Dr. Buchanan's Acquittal—Pointed Remarks by Judge Butler.—It was the United States District Court and not the Quarter Sessions that Dr. John Buchanan, of bogus diploma fame, feared the most, and it was to escape the charge pending in that court that he shammed a suicide. Had he stood his ground, and not tried the hazardous experiment of a feigned death, he would not have pleaded guilty in the Criminal Court, as he did recently, to escape as he thought a trial in Uncle Sam's Court, where no mercy would be shown him. Yesterday's attempt to convict him of using the mails for the purposes of fraud utterly failed. He sat facing the jury, flanked on both sides by his counsel, F. Carroll Brewster and William B. Mann. He looked tired and wan, and yet scrupulously clean and neat. Twice during the trial tears started to his eyes, and once his face, that is ordinarily white, was suffused with blushes.

No, unlike the con men fleecing naïve but ultimately trusting patients, John Buchanan acted in a manner more consistent with the white collar criminal. The term itself dates to the late 1930s and its introduction by the sociologist Edwin Sutherland. Generally defined as a non-violent offense involving financial motive, we generally think of white collar criminals as professional men who have exploited their position or authority for personal gain, e.g., Bernie Madoff, Jeffrey Skilling (Enron), etc.

Traditionally, scholars explained white collar criminal behavior in wholly rational terms—as individuals engaged in a conscious, almost deliberative mental process involving analysis of risk and reward related to a specific opportunity. More recent research,[2] including interviews with convicted white collar criminals, suggests a more nuanced explanation involving a triangulation of variables:

- perceived pressure
- perceived opportunity
- individual integrity/rationalization

Here I believe we find the more compelling answer to why John Buchanan moved into diploma sales. Financial pressures on Buchanan and his school increased markedly in the early 1860s with the start of the Civil War and the disrupted flow of matriculating students. In his published confession from 1881, Buchanan also cited personal financial pressures.

As for opportunity, at the time Buchanan joined the school faculty in 1860, there were virtually no legal restrictions on the practice of medicine anywhere in the United States. As the professionalizing trend evolved in medicine, pressures mounted to increase standards for medical education, including the issuance of medical degrees. Legitimate degree issuance practices such as *ad eundem* and honorary degrees and the awarding of advance standing to experienced physicians were practices vulnerable to abuse for those willing to "rationalize" deviations from conventional or accepted standards.

In this regard, Dr. John Buchanan differed markedly from the contemporary charlatans knowingly peddling nostrums based upon hokum and pseudo-science to a gullible public. Buchanan's downfall derived from the hubris of a criminal who convinced himself that his drift into questionable practices could be justified in the *laissez-faire* era of lax business practices and that his golden goose (the diploma trade) could lay eggs just a little longer despite the emerging regulatory landscape rapidly changing his world.

The opinions expressed reflect the views of the author and not those of the FSMB.

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Bill Barrett. "Inside the Mind of the White Collar Criminal." Accessed July 24, 2018 at https://www.accountingweb.com/technology/trends/inside-the-

mind-of-the-white-collar-criminal (https://www.accountingweb.com/technology/trends/inside-the-mind-of-the-white-collar-criminal)

[1] See Pope Brock, *Charlatan* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2008) and Eric S. Junhke, *Quacks and Crusaders* (Lawrence: Univ. of Kansas Press, 2002)

[2] Experts in the field have also identified psychopathic traits commonly seen among white collar criminals. See Isabella Merzagora, et. al., "Psychology and Psychopathology of White Collar Crime," *Organized Crime, Corruption and Crime Prevention* October 2013.

Uncategorized

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